

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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S E C R E T REYKJAVIK 1073

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR NATO IC

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION: POSSIBLE NORWEGIAN APPROACHES

REF: REYKJAVIK 1043

1. NORWEGIAN AMB LYDVO REPORTED TO ME ON HIS MEETING WITH PRIMIN (REFTTEL) WHICH TOOK PLACE EVENING SEPT 6. HE TOLD PRIMIN THAT HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO PRESENT TO HIM THE DEEP CONCERN OF NORWEGIAN GOVT REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF IDF. LYDVO SAID HE PRESENTED NO NEW INFORMATION BUT TRIED TO SPELL OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE IDF TO NORWAY'S DEFENSE, GIVEN NORWAY'S GEOGRAPHY. HE SAID NORTHERN EUROPE HAS HAD PEACE THESE PAST 25 YEARS BECAUSE THE SOVIETS HAVE RECOGNIZED A POWER BALANCE IN THAT AREA. SHOULD THE IDF BE ASKED TO WITHDRAW, IT WOULD UPSET THE POWER BALANCE WITH ADVERSE EFFECTS ON NORTHERN EUROPE IN PEACETIME AS WELL AS WARTIME. THERE WOULD BE THE DANGER OF ANOTHER FINLAND. LYDVO ALSO TOLD PRIMIN OF SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP IN KOLA PENINUSLA WHICH NORWAY MONITORING WITH APPREHENSION. HE CONCLUDED BY TELLING PRIMIN NOW WAS NOT THE SECRET

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TIME TO FORCE THE IDF OUT OF ICELAND, AND HE ASKED PRIMIN FOR

SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF NORWAY'S CONCERN AS A NORDIC MEMBER WHICH HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ICELAND. HE ALSO ASKED PRIMIN NOT TO DIVULGE TO PRESS OR NATO OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY HIS DEMARCHE. LYDVO ASKED THAT WE ALSO KEEP THIS TO OURSELVES SINCE HE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO TELL THIS TO HIS NATO OR OTHER NORDIC COLLEAGUES.

2. PRIMIN'S RESPONSE WAS BRIEF AND SOMEWHAT CRYPTIC, REPLYING THAT LYDVO'S REQUEST REMINDED HIM OF A REMARK A NORWEGIAN AUTHOR ONCE MADE: (LOOSE TRANSLATION) " EVERYBODY'S CONCERN IS ABOUT HIMSELF." LYDVO LEFT A TALKING PAPER WITH HIM WHICH PRIMIN SAID HE WOULD CIRCULATE APPROPRIATELY WITHIN THE GOVT.

3. LYDVO SAID HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO ADD, BUT ONLY IF ASKED OR PROVOKED, REASONS WHY NORWAY CANNOT CONTEMPLATE A FOREIGN FORCE ON ITS SOIL. UNFORTUNATELY, HE WAS NOT GIVEN OPPORTUNITY. LYDVO WAS PREPARED TO GIVE AS REASONS: (A) SOVIETS ACCEPT EXISTENCE OF IDF IN ICELAND. IF FORCES MOVED TO NORWAY, GIVEN NORWAYS'S CONTIGUOUS BORDER WITH USSR, SOVIETS WOULD CONSIDER THIS A PROVOCATIVE MOVE: (B) NORWAY HAS A DEFENSE FORCE OF ITS OWN; AND (C) NORWAY COOPERATES WITH ALL NATO FORCES AND PERMITS NATO MILITARY EXERCISES ON ITS TERRITORY.

4. COMMENT: LYDVO WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT HE MADE AN IMPACT. HE SAID PRIMIN WAS TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH UK FISHERIES DISPUTE AND OBSESSED WITH FEELING THAT NO ONE (READ THIS AS NATO) SEEMS TO BE WILLING TO HELP ICELAND WITH HER PROBLEM. IRVING

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